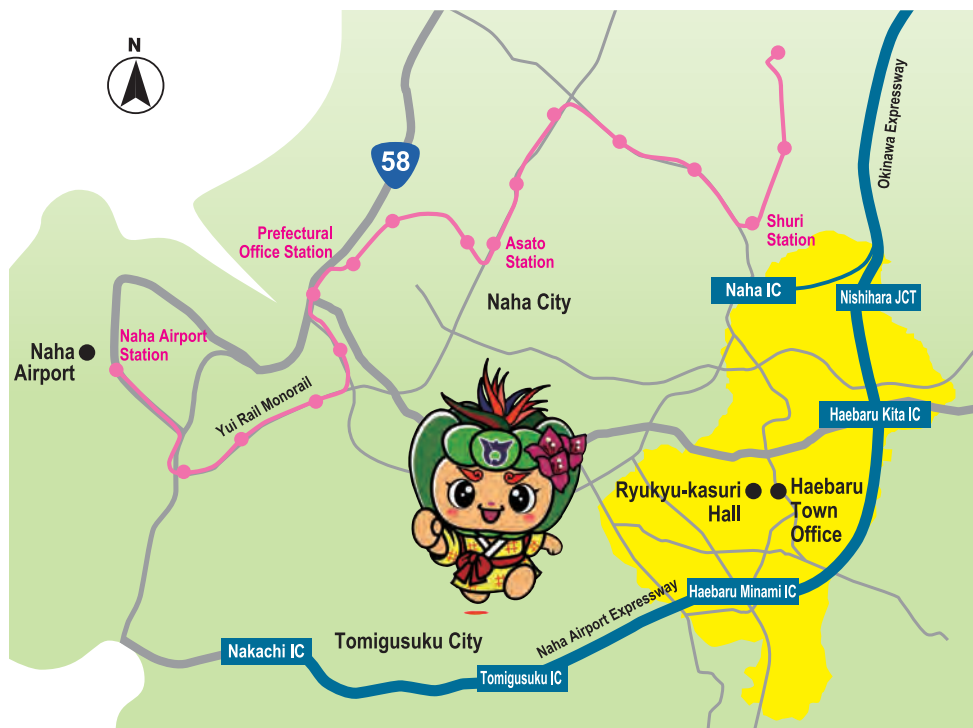


Haebaru

Located in the center of the southern region of Okinawa's main island, the town of Haebaru is surrounded by six other municipalities and is the only town in Okinawa that does not face onto the sea. Located inland, it has long served as a transportation hub, with the Naha Airport Expressway and trunk roads running through the town.



HAEBARU KASURI ROAD

Haebaru Town Tourism Association



Haebaru Town Character

It's me, Haerun! I'm cheerful and energetic, and I grew up surrounded by the natural beauty of Haebaru, basking in the sunlight! Although it's the only town in Okinawa Prefecture that does not face onto the sea, Haebaru is full of delicious food and lots of fun, with fantastic pumpkins and luffa gourds, and a kasuri weaving experience, among other things! Come and have fun in Haebaru! We'll be waiting for you! ♪



Published & revised by:
**Haebaru Town
Tourism Association (2024)**

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What is Ryukyu kasuri ?

A town that even now produces long-loved kasuri fabric, carefully passed down from our ancestors

Ryukyu kasuri is the generic term for kasuri fabrics made in Okinawa, but recently it has come to refer specifically to the kasuri woven principally in the town of Haeburu. Characterized by geometric patterns, it was introduced to Japan from Ryukyu (Okinawa) and is said to be the “origin of Japanese kasuri” as it influenced both Satsuma kasuri and Kurume kasuri fabrics. Kasuri itself originated in India in the 3rd and 4th centuries BC. From there, through Southeast Asia, artisans created their own

unique beauty, incorporating colors and techniques acquired through trade with other countries. Although it developed dramatically in the 15th and 16th centuries, after the invasion of Ryukyu by Satsuma, kasuri fabric was woven to be offered as tribute under strict control for about 300 years. It was not until the 1910s that it was finally produced for use in formal wear by the common people. Eventually, the textile industry in Haeburu developed a division of labor that involved tying, dyeing, and weaving. Haeburu was also the first place to revive Ryukyu

kasuri after the war. Locals gathered up the remaining tools and machinery that had been burned, unraveled ropes and other materials supplied by the U.S. military, and began weaving from tofu sacks.



Features of Ryukyu kasuri

A collection of designs passed down from one artisan to the next—a treasure of Ryukyu



The first step in the production process is determining the design—the more detailed the design, the higher the level of skill required. The “Miezu-cho” book, which dates from the Ryukyu Kingdom period and a collection of designs handed down from generation to

generation in the workshops serve as guidelines in creating these designs. Originally, Ryukyu kasuri was mostly dark blue cotton kasuri, but as the common people became more affluent, use of silk became more widespread and more colorful kasuri were produced.

Production process for Ryukyu kasuri

Through many processes, the feelings of the creator are woven together

Kasuri is a plain weave fabric in which the warp and weft yarns are interwoven alternately. Using this technique, the yarn is dyed in advance to create a pattern before weaving. Various yarns are dyed separately based on the pattern to be woven. There

is also a process to prevent the pattern from shifting due to the threads expanding and contracting. Numerous processes are involved from preparing the threads depending on the chosen pattern to the weaving process itself.



Various patterns

Hope woven into the design

Kasuri patterns can be broadly categorized into warp (vertical) kasuri and weft (horizontal) kasuri, and a variety of designs can be woven by

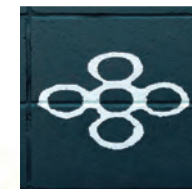
combining these. 500 to 600 patterns are known to exist. The motifs are created with a very flexible conception, and include plants, animals, and household

items. Many of these designs, handed down from ancestors, can be seen on the walls of houses around Kasuri Road. Be sure to look for them as you stroll around.



Tuiguwa

This pattern represents two birds in flight. Among the most commonly used of the Ryukyu kasuri designs.



Ichichi Marugumu

A pattern representing five round clouds. One of the classic patterns of Ryukyu kasuri.



Buribusa

The overlapping of the warp and weft kasuri patterns emphasizes the contrast with the base color. Represents a group of stars in the night sky.

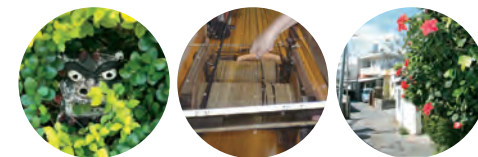


Tate Yoko Kasuri

A balanced pattern resembling a loom and two squares repeated throughout the fabric.



Haeburu Town has declared itself as the “Home of Ryukyu Kasuri.”
You can see kasuri-related scenery all over the town.
Let’s go find out how Ryukyu kasuri is made!



A Haeburu Town Tourist Parking Lot

Optimum parking available for sightseeing
Please use it for sightseeing tours of Haeburu, strolling around town, and events held on the Kasuri Road.
Parking for 1 microbus, 18 cars, and 1 parking space for physically disabled persons.



1 Ryukyu-kasuri Hall

check!

Try kasuri coaster-making!
Kasuri products are also available for sale!
See p.6 for details

Nurturing successors to carry on traditional skills and approaches

After the Battle of Okinawa, the production of kasuri in Haeburu was the first to recover, but now it faces an era of great change, so hand weavers gathered to form an association to stabilize their work and improve their social standing. Ryukyu-kasuri Hall was built as a foundation for the kasuri industry, including joint purchasing of yarn and dyes,

establishing a stable supply of equipment, and issuing cooperative certificates for products. Even today, the Hall devotes its efforts to training the next generation of artisans, and also features an exhibition and sales outlet on the ground floor. Stop by at the end of your stroll for a facility tour and try your hand at weaving.



Address Haeburu-cho Motobu 157
(Map reference: B-2)
Hours 09:00–17:00 (closes at 17:30)
Sundays, public holidays
Closed (New Year, Obon summer holidays)



2 Motobu Stone Lion

This stone guardian deity, resembling a lion with a unique face, survived the Battle of Okinawa.



3 Ijunga Park

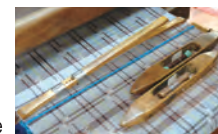
A number of trees planted around the park provides materials for the dyeing process.

4 Marumasa Textile Studio



A house where you can hear the gentle sound of weaving

From tying to weaving, this family has been making Ryukyu kasuri fabrics for three generations. They also manufacture kimonos, shirts, ties, and more. It’s both a home and a workshop, so if you want to look around, be sure to ask first.



6 Oshiro Koshiro Textile Studio



A kasuri workshop with splendid exterior walls reminiscent of a kasuri pattern

The workshop carries on the techniques of the pioneering textile artist Koshiro Oshiro. In addition to kimono fabric and obi belts, the workshop also manufactures and sells ties, shirts, wallets, and other processed goods, as well as more unusual processed items such as tapestries and table runners. Tours of the second-floor workshop are also available free of charge.

7 Old private residence (Jana family)



Take a moment in a nostalgic old Okinawan house

Cement roof tiles are quite common in Haeburu. Water tanks are rarer nowadays, but still valuable for understanding the past. It’s also a great place to take a break when strolling around.

5 Thread stretching (gluing and stretching) area



Thread stretching area, where 3 processes take place

Preventing the pattern from losing its alignment during the tying process, preparing the threads after the dyeing process is finished, and fixing the pattern in line with the design. This place is an essential part of creating kasuri thread.



8 Steaming Studio Oshiro



The old kasuri washing machine is stylish and cool!

The Steaming Studio Oshiro is a specialized division of labor. The woven fabrics are carefully rinsed in water and then steamed to adjust the width, and cotton and linen fabrics only are lightly starched. The sight of dried fabrics rustling in the wind under a blue sky is truly tranquil. A good time to visit is when the weather is nice.

Travel the Kasuri Road

[Model Course]



9 Oshiro Loom-Making Factory

Second-generation weaver certified as a master artisan.

Although many factories existed before the war, the only one that remains is the Oshiro Loom Factory. Yoshimasa Oshiro, who has inherited his predecessor's techniques and has been designated as the holder of a technique selected for preservation (hand loom production), displays his skills.



10 Demui Hill and Ishi-jishi (stone lions)

This hill was used as a fire beacon and watchtower during the Ryukyu period.



11 Nakanuka Park

A perfect place to take a break from strolling and relax in the city.

A little off
the beaten path...

Kasuri detour spots

B Motobu Children's Center

A perfect place to take a break from strolling and relax in the city. Restrooms are also available.



C Kasuri tying artisans in Teruya

Artisans who perform tying while providing guidance on designs, such as the position and scale of warp and weft kasuri. Weft kasuri, in which small patterns are tied with consistent strength, is dyed uniformly by dip-dyeing, and the naturally formed patterns are beautifully uneven. Neater warp kasuri is known for being easier to align patterns when weaving.



D Oshiro Hand Weaving Studio



Bringing together all the processes of Ryukyu kasuri

This is a workshop where all processes such as tying, dyeing, and weaving are carried out on the spacious premises. In addition to kasuri, it also produces hana-ori (flower pattern weaving). It's a little far away, but worth a visit.



Take a tour
with a local
guide!

Kasuri Road Tour

Along the Kasuri Road, visitors can experience all the scenes of the home of kasuri. This tour takes visitors, accompanied by a local guide, to workshops and villages where traditions have been passed down. Enjoy a leisurely stroll while listening to the guide's commentary. You may even hear the sound of a loom somewhere in the distance.



Stroll with a local guide to experience all the charms of kasuri and local villages.



At workshops, you can listen to explanations from the artisans and observe traditional techniques firsthand.



Along the way, enjoy a break at an old residence and encounter the local community.

- Date and time of departure: Negotiable ● Duration: 120 minutes ● Participation fee: Negotiable
- Capacity: 5 to 10 persons ● Gathering place: Ryukyu-kasuri Hall or Haeburu Tourist Parking Lot *varies according to tour
- Organizer/Inquiries: Haeburu Town Tourism Association ☎098-882-6776 (Haeburu Tourist Information Center)

Check!

Enjoy even more kasuri at
Ryukyu-kasuri Hall!

Try kasuri coaster-making

Create your own totally unique
kasuri coaster!

Experience traditional weaving at Ryukyu-kasuri Hall. Try your hand at making your own original Ryukyu kasuri coaster under the instruction of a skilled artisan!



This piece was
actually made by
a participant!

Bringing
traditional kasuri
closer to you♪

You can also buy various
kasuri fabric products!



Kasuri-
patterned
bag



Kasuri-
patterned
card case

A must-visit for
lovers of kasuri!

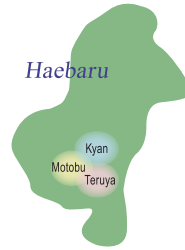


Want to know more?

Haeburu Kasuri Road

Three regions connected by the Kasuri Road

Even within the same town of Haeburu, events and customs differ from region to region. But Ryukyu kasuri is definitely one thing that connects them. By dividing the work of production, the areas have developed together while helping each other, creating an old-fashioned and relaxing townscape.



Motobu

Canna lilies bring smiles to the faces of passersby

The Kasuri Road encompasses many workshops, and the only loom factory remaining in Okinawa. Canna Avenue, where locals gather early in the morning to sweep the street and tend to the canna lilies, is filled with colorful flowers, delighting every passerby.



Kyan

Countless events to enjoy together

The village is located in the southeast of Haeburu, with Koganemori at its back. The dyeing and weaving industries have been active here since ancient times, and many unique chimneys and drying platforms can still be seen here. Many traditional events such as tug-of-war and Jugoya (night of the full moon) remain, in which the locals take great pleasure.



Teruya

A bustling area where industry once flourished

Named as one of ten ancient settlements that have existed since the days of the Ryukyu Kingdom. Agriculture and textiles were once the principal industries here, together with the neighboring villages of Kyan and Motobu. The traditions of mekata-boh (traditional stick dance), Japanese dance, and tug-of-war have also been passed down through the generations and are still actively performed at events and functions.



Traditional performing arts from 3 regions

Motobu Shishi-mai
(lion dance)



Kyan Choja-no-Ufushu
(theater performance)



Teruya Mekata-boh
(traditional stick dance)



Along the Kasuri Road

Chura-hana Flower Association

Launched to brighten up the Kasuri Road with their favorite flowers, the group works to create a colorful, appealing path. This important activity also creates a place for locals to relax.



Events for (English-speaking) foreigners held to date



The tour visited the Marumasa Textile Studio, the Oshiro Koshiro Textile Studio, and the Oshiro Loom-Making Factory, then strolled along Kasuri Road.



After trying kasuri weaving and making kasuri coasters at Ryukyu-kasuri Hall, the tour took a walk along the Kasuri Road.

A

B

C

D

1

2

3

Map of Kasuri Road

What is "Kasuri Road"?

Patterns resembling Ryukyu kasuri textiles, a traditional industry of Haeburu Town, decorate the stone pavement underfoot. One circuit is about 2 kilometers.

[Model Course]

- Travel the Kasuri Road
- Kasuri Road Tour

