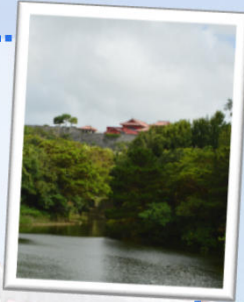


Park area

⑪ Ryutan Pond

A great place to relax and take pictures.



⑩ Enkakuchi temple

The royal family's official Buddhist temple. Once the most impressive temple of the Ryukyu Islands, it was heavily damaged in 1945.

⑨ Benzaiten-do

A small pavilion originally built in the 16th century on the Enkanchi Pond to house precious Buddhist scriptures presented to King Shō Toku by King Yi Yu of Korea.

Paid area

Admissions:

Adults: ¥400 HS Students: ¥300
JHS-ES students: ¥160 Under 6: Free

April to June/ October-November: 8:30~19:00
July to September: 8:30~20:00
December to March: 8:30~18:00

⑧ Uuchibaru

A private area that only the royal family and their female servants could access. The servants' quarters are on the left side, the King and the Queen's on the left.

Shurijo Castle Unesco World Heritage Site

From 1429 to 1879, Shurijo castle was the residence of the kings of the Ryukyu Kingdom, a prosperous maritime trade hub between China, Japan, and South East Asia. Blending Ryukyuan elements with continental influences, it is also surrounded by many sites of historical interest.

Destroyed during the Battle of Okinawa in 1945, it was reconstructed on the original site based on historical records. On the morning of 31 October 2019, the main courtyard structures were again destroyed in a fire. They are currently being rebuilt.

All information as of Aug. 2020. Pictures used with the approval of Shurijo Castle Park.



⑦ Una (main courtyard)

The main hall facing east, and the *Hokuden* and *Nanden* halls, respectively on the north and south were destroyed by a fire last year. Renovation is expected to be finished by 2026.

⑥ Kyo no uchi

This worship site was especially important to the religion of the Kingdom: it is said to have been created by Amamikiyo, the god who made the Ryukyu Islands.

Free area

Hours:

April to June/ October-November: 8:00~19:30
July to September: 8:00~20:30
December to March: 8:00~18:30

① Shureimon

The Chinese inscription means "The land of propriety". Like most gates in the castle, only the King and dignitaries were allowed to use the central bay.

② Sonohyan-utaki Stone Gate

Behind the door is the *Sonohyan-utaki*, a sacred spot of national importance where the King used to pray every time he left the castle.

③ Kankaimon

Front gate of the castle. The name means "to welcome with a smile", referring especially the "sappūshi" sent by the Chinese Emperor.

④ "Bridge of Nations" Bell

Originally in the main hall, this bronze bell takes its name from the inscription upon it celebrating the Kingdom's history of trade with China and Japan.

⑤ Suimui-utaki

A sacred grove where the High priestess of the Kingdom used to perform rituals. The sight from the top of the outer wall is also definitely worth the short hike.