

# Tsuboya Pottery District



Founded in the late 17th century as most of the country's pottery making was centralized in Naha, the Tsuboya district is the birthplace of the Tsuboya-yaki, Okinawa's most famous style. It is still home to many pottery shops and studios, and is also famous for its scenery reminiscent of prewar Naha.



## Naha Municipal Tsuboya Pottery Museum

To learn more about pottery making and the history of the Tsuboya district. Many masterpieces and a authentic kiln on display.

Open: 10:00~18:00 (closed on Mon.)  
Admission: ~¥315



## Ishimachi Alley

With its old stone walls covered in ivy, this alley offers a glimpse into the district's past.

Sitting atop a wall at the intersection is a rare example of a stone "shisa" (guardian lion) head.



## Arakaki Family Residence

A historical potter's house. The 1300m<sup>2</sup> estate still comprises a traditional workshop, complete with an intact kiln.

The business closed its door in 1974, but the facility is being preserved and is open to the public.



## Agari nu ka well

The "East well" was the first one to be dug in Tsuboya, and still provides water when the pump is operated.

Next to it is an incense burner, as the place is still used by locals as a place or worship.



## Fe-nu-kama kiln

The only surviving "arayachi" (unglazed potteries) kiln in Tsuboya, complete with its tiled roof.

It was mostly used to fire water and sake jars as well as funerary urns.



**Shisa lions** are often placed on rooftops or flanking a gate to ward off evil spirits and keep the good ones in.



Curved as to match the shape of the body, **dachibin** are hip flasks that were carried by travelers.



**Karakara** are decorated clay flasks used to serve awamori (Okinawan traditional rice liquor).



Also thought to protect from spirits, **Ishiganto** stones are usually placed at intersections.



Cafe / Restaurant



Pottery shop