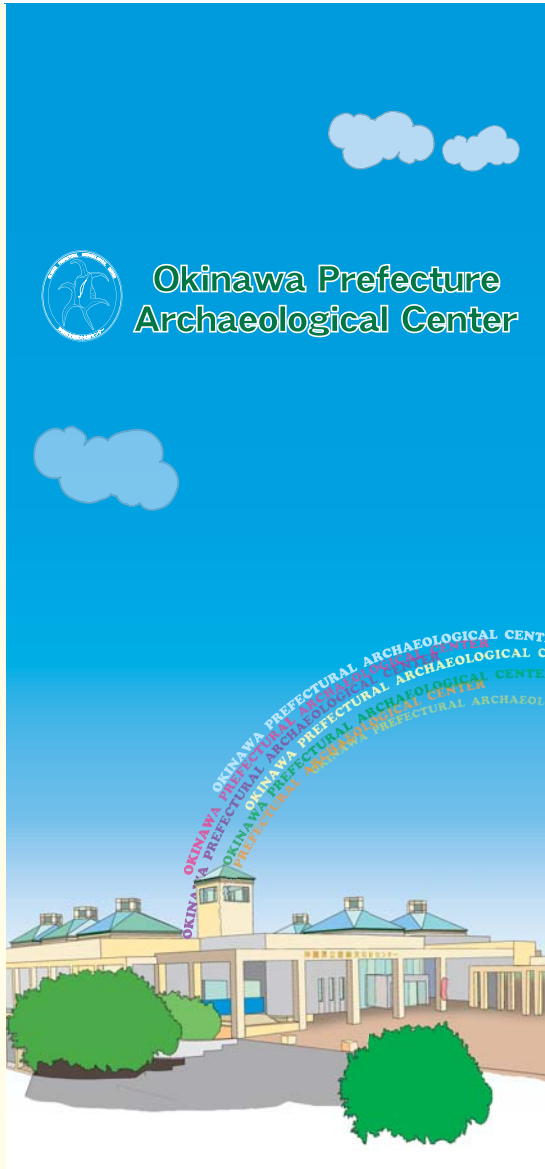
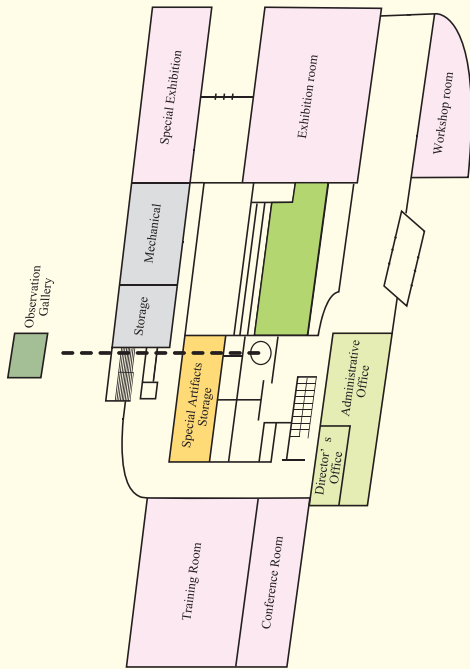


Floor Plan (2nd Level)



Okinawa Prefecture Archaeological Center

193-7 Uehara, Nishihara- cyo, Nakagami-gun, Okinawa,
Japan 903-0125
TEL 098-835-8751 • 8752 FAX 098-835-8754

Office hours

Open 9:00 ~ 17:00 Last admission 16:30(Free Admission)

Days Closed

Every Monday (if Monday is a National Holiday, the center will close on Tuesday)

Closed on National Holidays (except for Children's Day and Culture Day)

Directions

By car

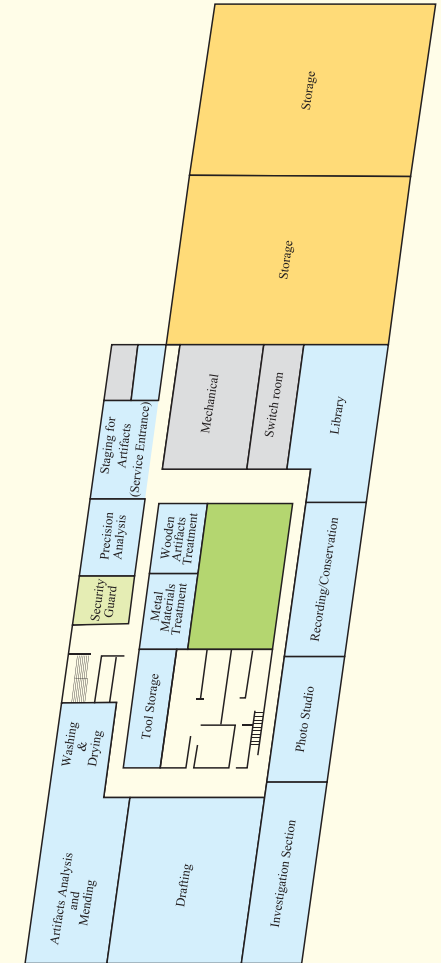
Use the Okinawa expressway, approximately 10 minutes from Nishihara (#2) interchange

By bus

Take the Naha Bus #97, to the bus stop in front of the University of the Ryukyu Hospital, we are located approximately 3 minutes walk from the bus stop



Floor Plan (1st Level)



Objective of the Okinawa Prefecture Archaeological Center

The Okinawa Prefecture is surrounded by oceans, consists of three island chains, such as the Okinawa Islands, Yaeyama Islands and Miyako Islands. There are over 2,500 identified sites, including buried cultural assets, which hold very important information about our ancestors' life.

During World War II, there was a land battle took place in this prefecture. Many national treasures including the Shuri Castle were lost by cannon fires. On the other hands, buried cultural assets survived the destruction since those were underground.

After the war, many large developments occurred in all through the islands and generated many archeological recordation surveys. Significant archeological data and artifacts were increasingly obtained year by year. Those factors led to the development of an institute to intensively and efficiently maintain such data and resources. Therefore, the institution was established to research, analyze and curate such data and artifacts, and contribute to the improvement of education, art, and culture of the society.

Date of foundation

April 1st 2000 Opening of the Okinawa Prefecture Archaeological Center

Tasks

- Investigation of buried cultural assets
Excavation and investigation of buried cultural assets and production of survey reports
- Analysis and curation of excavated items
Analysis and curation of excavated items and survey records
Conservation treatments for archaeological remains
- Study of Archaeology
Development of survey methods and training programs, collection of data, and archaeological studies
- Promotion of the idea of archaeological resources conservation
Local briefings, exhibitions of excavated artifacts, open lectures, visiting the ruins, issuance of the center gazette and consultation concerning buried cultural properties
- Management of materials
Classification and organization of survey records, and lending excavated items

Organization Chart

The Okinawa Prefecture Archaeological Center



Exhibition Room

The room exhibits findings from the past excavations categorized into nine themes and a miniature replica of typical prehistoric settlement of Ryukyu in the periods around 2,000 years before present.



Green-turban shell spoon
(Late Yayoi period / approximately 1,800 years before present)



Omonawa-zentei Type pottery
(Middle Jomon Period / approximately 4,000 years before present)



Jar, blue-and-white with peony scroll design
(Early 15th century)



Shimotabaru Type pottery
The oldest pottery in the Yaeyama Islands
(approximately 3,500 years before present)



Ewer covered with copper red glaze
(Late 14th century)

Investigation of ruins

(Process from excavation to report production)

Ruins contain very important information for studying our ancestors' way of life and the appearance of society at that time. It is very important for us to illuminate the ancient life with information about features and artifacts to be derived from archaeological investigations; and convey the achievement to the future generations.



Removal of topsoil

Topsoil covering ruin and remains is removed by backhoe with utmost care.



Identification of features

Excavators remove subsoil layers containing artifacts to find structural remains that tend to have a different soil color than the surrounding soil.



Investigation of features

When excavating (using bamboo spatula and trowel) subsoil associated with such features, age-determinable artifacts are sometime discovered. Such artifacts will assist with determining the age of the features.



Measurement of features

Unearthed features and subsoil stratigraphy are photographed and mapped for recordation. The measurements of physical characteristics, such as size, width and depth, are usually conducted by hand, but may be obtained using photogrammetric systems supported by small helicopters and computers occasionally.



Washing and labeling of artifacts

First, staffs wash relics in water and remove the remaining dirt with brushes. After the relics dry, the site names, features, remains, and stratigraphic position are labeled on the item. The relics are then classified according to shape and quality.



Restoration of artifacts

Technicians fit and glue the fragments of artifacts back together into complete or partially complete shape of the original form as much as possible. The absent portion is filled with plaster (mostly gypsum for vessels) to reconstruct the overall shape.



Measurement and drawing development

Technicians intensively observe size, shape and decorations of artifacts (such as potteries or stone tools) and make drawings for those to be illustrated in survey reports. For example, intensive analysis and measurement are required for developing drawings of stone tools in order to illustrate the physical attributes of morphology, use-ware analysis and sequences of lithic reductions (detaching flakes from core stone in the process of production and/or refinement), which are hard to visualize on photograph.



Publishing report

Survey records and results are then compiled into reports. The reports contain illustrations (drawings, photographs and narratives) of discovered artifacts and features.

